CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing authorization tokens within a computer system comprising:

creating a master owner token indicating full ownership of a resource within the computer system by a management environment;

creating at least one delegate owner token for a delegated environment;

communicating the delegate owner token to the delegated environment and to the resource; and

allowing access to the resource by the delegated environment when the delegated environment presents a valid delegate owner token to the resource.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the master owner token in a secure storage within the computer system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource comprises a trusted platform module.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the management environment assigns a delegate owner token to a delegated environment by sealing the delegate owner token to the delegated environment.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the master owner token indicates the management environment can change at least one of the master owner token and a delegate owner token.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising launching the management environment before launching the delegated environment.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the delegate owner token in an access control list in the resource.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing, by the management environment, a delegate owner token from the access control list and adding a different delegate owner token to the access control list.

9. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for managing authorization tokens within a computer system by

creating a master owner token indicating full ownership of a resource within the computer system by an administrative environment;

creating at least one delegate owner token for a environment;

communicating the delegate owner token to the environment and to the resource; and

allowing access to the resource by the environment when the environment presents a valid delegate owner token to the resource.

10. The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for storing the master owner token in a secure storage within the computer system.

11. The article of claim 9, wherein the resource comprises a trusted platform module.

12. The article of claim 9, wherein the management environment assigns a delegate owner token to a delegated environment by sealing the delegate owner token to the delegated environment.

13. The article of claim 9, wherein the master owner token indicates the management environment can change at least one of the master owner token and a delegate owner token.

14. The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for launching the management environment before launching the environment.

15. The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for storing the delegate owner token in an access control list in the resource.

16. The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for removing, by the management environment, a delegate owner token from the access control list and adding a different delegate owner token to the access control list.

17. A computer system comprising:

a plurality of environments;

a management environment to create a master owner token indicating full ownership of a resource within the computer system, to create a plurality of delegate owner tokens indicating partial ownership of the resource, and to communicate a selected one of the delegate owner tokens to a selected one of the plurality of environments and to the resource;

wherein the resource stores delegate owner tokens received from the management environment and allows access to the resource by the selected environment when a valid delegate owner token is presented to the resource by the selected environment.

18. The computer system of claim 17, further comprising a secure storage to store the master owner token.

19. The computer system of claim 17, wherein the resource comprises a trusted platform module.

20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the trusted platform module comprises an access control list for storing the delegate owner tokens received from the management environment.